

## Portugal, Canned seafood exports continue to rise

Last year Portugal exported 53,000 tonnes of canned fish for more than EUR 218 million, a value close to record high in 1923, according to a study carried out by former Deputy Fisheries Director General, António Duarte de Almeida.

But whereas in 1923 there were 400 canneries, at present there are only 23 factories, the report reveals.

The study by economist Duarte de Almeida notes that "the canning sector has traditionally exported about 70 per cent of its production, which represents more than a quarter of the country's exports of fishery products," *Boas Notícias* informed.

Besides, it stresses that this situation persists even though the sector faces challenges in the domestic supply of sardines, "whose national catches dropped at least a third in recent years."

Because of that, the average prices doubled and it has been necessary to rely on imports of raw materials, the former official added.

The study indicates that in the last four years canned sardine exports increased by 39 per cent in volume and 62 per cent in value, while diversification of raw materials was recorded.

"In 2013, nearly 40 per cent of the canned seafood exported was based on sardine, 25 per cent on tuna, 17 per cent on mackerel and bonito, and 18 per cent on other resources," explained Duarte de Almeida.

In his opinion, these figures reflect the "significant ongoing investments in new plants and the modernization of many existing ones."

Source : <http://fis.com/fis/worldnews/worldnews.asp?l=e&ndb=1&id=71453> (19/09/2014)